

CLAIMS:

1. A computer readable medium having code for automatic renumbering of patent claims, comprising:
 - 5 a first identification component that identifies a series of claim numbers wherein the claim numbers are integers;
 - a second identification component that identifies a series of reference numbers that reference particular claim numbers of the series; and
 - 10 a renumbering routine that renumbers particular of the claim numbers and reference numbers in an automated fashion without the need for a user to renumber the claim and reference numbers individually.
- 15 2. The code of claim 1, wherein the renumbering routine is an add claim routine.
3. The code of claim 1, wherein the renumbering routine is a delete claim routine.
- 20 4. The code of claim 1, wherein the code enables the display of an add claim button on a computer display.
- 25 5. The code of claim 1, wherein a new claim number is added within the series and wherein the reference numbers subsequent to the new claim number are increased by one.
6. The code of claim 5, wherein the subsequent reference numbers have a value greater than or equal to the new claim number.
- 30 7. The medium of claim 1, wherein upon deletion of one of the claims within the series, claim numbers subsequent to the one claim are decreased by one and subsequent of the reference numbers are decreased by one.

8. The code of claim 7, wherein the subsequent of the reference numbers decreased by one have a value greater than the one deleted claim number.

5 9. The code of claim 4, wherein the code on the medium enables the display of a delete claim button on a computer display.

10. The code of claim 1, wherein code on the medium is downloaded into a word processing program.

10 11. The code of claim 1, wherein the code on the medium identifies the claim numbers and the reference numbers by searching for first and second strings, respectively.

12. The code of claim 11, wherein the first string includes an integer, followed by a period, followed by at least one space.

15 13. The code of claim 11, wherein the first string includes an integer, followed by a period, followed by at least one tab.

20 14. The code of claim 11, wherein the second string includes the word "claim" and an integer follows the word claim within less than five characters after the word claim.

15. The code of claim 11, wherein the second string is inputted by the user.

25 16. The medium of claim 1, wherein the medium is memory.

17. The medium of claim 1, wherein the medium is a compact disc.

18. The medium of claim 1, wherein the medium is a floppy disk.

30 19. The medium of claim 1, wherein the code thereof includes a validate position routine that validates whether a cursor is positioned adjacent a claim number.

20. A computer assisted method of automatically renumbering patent claims, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a code having one or more identification components and a renumbering routine;

5 using the one or more identification components to identify a series of claim numbers and a plurality of dependency reference numbers associated with particular claim numbers of the series in a document wherein the claim numbers and reference numbers are integers;

changing the quantity of claims within the series; and

10 renumbering claim numbers and any reference numbers with the renumbering routine in response to the change while maintaining cross-referencing of the dependency reference numbers in an automated fashion without the need for a user of the method to individually renumber the claim numbers and the reference numbers within the series.

15 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the method is performed in conjunction with a word processor program.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the claim numbers and any reference numbers are changed by selecting an add claim button.

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23. The method of claim 21, wherein the claim numbers and any reference numbers are changed by selecting a delete claim button.

24. A method of providing software for automatic renumbering of patent claims to a consumer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a code having one or more identification components that identify a series of claim numbers and a plurality of dependency reference numbers that reference particular claim numbers in the series and a renumbering routine that responds to a change in the series wherein the renumbering routine renumbers claim numbers of the series and renumbers particular dependency reference numbers as necessary to preserve the referencing relationship of the claim numbers and reference numbers prior to the change and wherein the claim numbers are integers;

10 providing a website for distribution of the code to the consumer; and
delivering the code to the consumer.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the code is delivered to the consumer over the internet.

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26. The method of claim 24, wherein the code is disposed on a medium and the medium is physically delivered to the consumer.